

Madam Speaker, yesterday, the New Democrat Coalition including myself met with President Obama at the White House to discuss legislative strategy including the looming crisis of health care.

Missourians I represent expect their leaders to talk straight and provide common-sense solutions. President Obama and the new Congress have been doing just that. This year we have sought solutions to cover the more than 47 million Americans without health care.

Already this year we have dramatically increased health care coverage for low-income and uninsured children.

We've also modernized the health care system to lower costs and save lives by investing in Health Information Technology systems.

It is reassuring to see that the President's budget puts aside more than \$630 billion over the next 10 years to reform health care, reduce Medicare overpayments to private insurers, and reduce drug prices. By tackling this issue we can rein in the high costs that are a drag on the entire economy.

The commitment by the New Dems and President Obama to health care is working to not only do the right thing but to ensure America and its children remain competitive in today's global economy.